

# New Mexico's Claims

EX-GOV. PRINCE PLEADS FOR STATEHOOD

of the New York Tribune, to state approaches her except California and Colorado, and her vast treasure of coal gives her the advantage over those favored regions.

The character of the population seems to be a bugbear to the unfriendly senators who recently became familiar with the territory, which is much larger than New England and New York combined, in three days. Facts, however, should carry more weight than prejudices or unfounded slanders.

The people are loyal. During the rebellion out of a total population of 93,567 she sent 6,561 into the army, a larger percentage than any eastern state; and the victory at Glorieta saved the Pacific slope to the Union. In the recent Spanish war no less than 1,089 volunteers enlisted, including about 500 of the Rough Riders, who gained renown and made a president at San Juan Hill.

They are American. The foreign element is smaller in New Mexico than anywhere else in the country, except some parts of south. Only 7 1/2 per cent of the population is foreign born. Idaho has 21, Wyoming 24, Washington 25, Montana 42, North Dakota 45. Even in the older states, New York and Michigan have 26, Massachusetts 29, Rhode Island, Wisconsin and California, 30, and Minnesota 36 per cent.

They are public spirited. Without the slightest aid from the national government they have built a beautiful capitol, a substantial penitentiary, an insane asylum, university, agricultural college, school of mines, normal university, normal school, military institute and blind asylum, and when the capitol was destroyed by fire they erected another, which is the object of general admiration. Besides these territorial institutions they have erected a multitude of county and city buildings.

But to the uninformed the large number of citizens of Spanish descent is looked upon as a grave misfortune. There could not be a greater mistake. It is the possession of that conservative element in connection with the enterprising American from the east which gives New Mexico her special advantages as a self-governing community. Every one familiar with the far west knows that the principal danger in new sections arises from the unsettled character of much of the population. They are always looking for some new place to which to migrate. They are ready to vote for any amount of bonds and taxation, and to their responsible action is principally due the heavy indebtedness of so many western counties. The chief danger in many a new community comes from this class of men, and from the over enthusiasm of others who think that life in the west is a continual boom. But New Mexico runs no such risk. She has a stable and conservative element in her native population, which counteracts the danger. They are attached to the soil and have no thought of leaving. They are naturally opposed to rash schemes which involve extravagant expense. Mixed with the zealous American they form an admirable combination.

Another objection raised against us is illiteracy. Some years ago there may have been force in this argument, but it has disappeared. In no respect has New Mexico made such rapid progress as in public education. Even under the crude system which existed before the public school law of 1891, the census showed that while the population of the territory increased 28 per cent during the decade from 1880 to 1890, the number of children enrolled in the schools increased 283 per cent, or ten times as rapidly. During the last decade the gain has been equally gratifying. The school law of 1891 gave a great impetus to public education, and the system is now very satisfactory. The total enrollment of scholars last year was 42,925. In this connection I wish to state a fact which may be a surprise, that New Mexico, with less than 250,000 people, now supports more public institutions of college grade than any state east of the Alleghenies. She has the university, agricultural college, normal university, school of mines and military institute. All these have fine buildings and are creditably administered. Where is there any other community of similar population doing as much for higher education?

Thus it will be seen that in every essential particular New Mexico has long passed the period where a territorial government was necessary or justifiable. But for partisanship and prejudice it would have been admitted long ago.

The right of self-government ought not to depend on the political views of the people interested or on party prejudices or exigencies. Yet we do know that in practice these things do influence the admission of states, and no one has yet forgotten the long continued injustice to Dakota because she was strongly republican. But if these questions of political policy have to be considered there is every reason for republican senators to favor New Mexico. With the possible exception of Vermont and Pennsylvania, no state in the Union is as solidly and reliably republican as New Mexico.

Even the unjust treatment she has received in Washington cannot change her allegiance. As long as the tariff is the permanent political issue she cannot be driven out of the party, for all her great products, such as wool, cattle, lead, coal and timber, are benefited by protection. From a party point

of view New Mexico will be an assured position for at least a generation.

One word with regard to the name "New Mexico," which seems to be a bugbear to some eastern minds. All this of propositions are made for a change, a favorite suggestion being Montezuma, for no conceivable reason there is not the slightest connection between the unfortunate Aztec sovereign and this section of country. On the other hand "New Mexico" is an old historic name. Only one American state, Florida, has a name more ancient. It was first used in 1851 by Espejo, more than a quarter of a century before Jamestown, New Amsterdam or Plymouth was thought of. On all the ancient maps it appears as the "Kingdom of New Mexico," extending from Florida on the east to the Pacific on the west. It would be vandalism to change a name so full of historic associations and which has endured for more than three centuries.

In every respect in which she controls her own destiny, New Mexico is improving and advancing. Her railroad development last year exceeded the whole of the Atlantic seaboard. The only obstacle is the continued territorial condition. That affects both immigration and financial development. Statehood will bring good government and rapid improvement. The people will feel that they are really American citizens and not aliens or servants. All this will enkindle ambition, stimulate enterprise and lead on to a glorious future.

L. BRADFORD PRINCE,  
Santa Fe, N. M., Jan. 6, 1903.

## BEES INFURIATED BY BLACK.

Something in Color That Calls Forth Their Hatred and Their Stings.

Bees are opposed to black as color. Whether this is because they dislike a symbol of mourning, think black typifies a cloud, or consider it the emblem of death, is not known, but the fact remains that bees do not hesitate to display their hatred for things black upon the slightest provocation. L. L. Richards, an apiarist of Littleton, Colorado, can testify to this with regard.

Richards is a chicken fancier as well as a bee expert. He has some of the finest chickens in Colorado, and not long ago made up his mind to have more. He bought some imported chickens from Hong Kong, and paid a fancy price for them. One great bearded cock cost him \$85, and was as black as a piece of coal, save for one red mark on its back. Richards proudly took the big foreigner from its box and showed it to his friends with exultation. Then he set it free in the corner yard. The beehives occupy a corner of this yard, and had never caused any trouble. But with the advent of the black rooster, the living emblems of industry rebelled. Richards went back to see his new pet half an hour later, and was amazed to see the yard in a terrible commotion. The great chicken which had stalked so proudly about his new home a few moments before, to the wonder of the old chickens, was now in pitiful distress. It rushed frantically about the enclosure, squawking strangely and flapping its wings in desperation. Around it swarmed 1,000 bees. Violently they darted at the unfortunate fowl.

The bewildered stranger from across the seas dashed vainly about for a few minutes, to the alarm of the other chickens. It struck out with its wings and feet. Turn as it would, it could not escape the infuriated bees. At last it fell, and the relentless winged torturers settled upon it, stinging it to death.

## To Honor McMillan's Memory.

Washington, Jan. 31.—The house and senate will meet in joint session tomorrow to pay tribute to the memory of the late Senator McMillan, of Michigan. Eulogistic addresses will be delivered by Senator Alger, of Michigan, Senator Burrows of the same state, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, of Massachusetts, Senator Hanna, of Ohio, Senator Platt, of Connecticut, and several other members who were intimate friends and admirers of Senator McMillan.

## AN INJUNCTION GRANTED.

Must Construct Second Shaft For Protection of Employees.

Upon the report of the efficient and hard working United States coal mine inspector for New Mexico, J. E. Sheridan, of Silver City, a suit has been filed in the United States district court for the first judicial district of this territory by the United States against the George W. Kutz company, a corporation mining coal near Monero in Rio Arriba county, to compel the company to comply with the federal statutes in such matter made and provided and to construct a second opening into the coal mine operated by the company for the better protection and the safety of the lives of its employees.

A temporary injunction has been granted by Judge John R. McFie out of the United States court of this district enjoining the company from working its mine until such second opening has been made.

The company is ordered to show cause in Santa Fe on the 25th of February before Judge McFie why the temporary injunction should not be made permanent.

## Pensions Granted.

Pensions have been granted to Juan Padilla, Santa Fe, \$4 a month; dependent relatives of Higinio Giron, San Marcial, Socorro county, \$8 a month; Manuela de Vigil, Arroyo Hondo, Taos county, \$8 a month; Jose Enriquez Lopez, El Rito, Rio Arriba county, \$6 a month; John S. Forsberg, Fort Bayard, Grant county, \$20 a month.

## ABEYTA'S SHORTAGE.

Believed to Be to Socorro County and the Territory \$25,000.

The report of ex-collector Abran Abeyta to the county commissioners of Socorro county made on Thursday shows a shortage of \$15,077.37, on account of county collections of Socorro county.

It is reported that his shortage to the territory amounts to \$9,000.

Abeyta's total official and private indebtedness is estimated at about \$45,000 by those who are well acquainted with his affairs.

## To Celebrate Semi-Centennial.

New York, Jan. 31.—The Corn Exchange bank is fifty years old and has arranged to celebrate the semi-centennial with a big banquet tonight at Saerry's. Several financiers of national reputation have accepted invitations to speak.

## UNTIL FEBRUARY 26.

Supreme Court Finished Hearing Cases and Took a Recess.

The supreme court yesterday morning completed hearing cases and adjourned until February 26. Every case has been heard as assigned and the court has kept up with the docket. Chief Justice Mills presided today and Associate Justice John R. McFie, Associate Justice F. W. Parker and Associate Justice B. S. Baker were present. Solicitor General E. L. Bartlett and Clerk J. D. Sena were also present.

In case No. 931, U. S. Stewart, appellant, vs. The Board of County Commissioners of Bernalillo county, a which a motion for rehearing was granted some time ago, assignment for hearing was made for February 26.

In case No. 970, The Territory of New Mexico, appellee, vs. William Hall, appellant, appeal from the district court of Lincoln county, a motion for rehearing was denied some time ago, and this morning a motion for appeal to the United States supreme court was denied on the grounds that it was not appealable.

Case No. 1,002, The Territory of New Mexico, ex rel W. M. Adair and others, relators, appellees, vs. The Board of County Commissioners of Taos county et al., respondents, appellants, appeal from the district court of Taos county, was argued and submitted.

Case No. 1,004, George W. Johnston, administrator, etc., appellant, vs. The Board of County Commissioners of Bernalillo county, appellee, appeal from the district court of Bernalillo county, argument was made by A. B. McMillan, Esq., representing appellant. Thirty days was given F. W. Clancy, Esq., representing appellee, to file a brief, as he is sick.

## Jenkins vs. Piening.

New York, Jan. 31.—Lovers of the sport of wrestling are on the qui vive in anticipation of the contest between Tom Jenkins, the former world's champion, and "John Piening, the "Butcher Boy," which is to be decided tonight in Madison Square garden. The match is regarded as the most important of its kind decided in this vicinity in a long time. Piening first attracted attention as a wrestler two years ago, since which time he has steadily enhanced his reputation until now he is regarded as a wonder on the mat. He is in superb condition for tonight's contest and is confident of giving the ex-champion a hard tussle for the decision.

Jenkins, who lost his title of world's champion to Dan McLeod, in Worcester, Mass., on Christmas day, owing to an injury to his right leg, which forced him to forfeit the match, has fully recovered from the injury and appears to be in the pink of condition.

## General Booth in Dallas.

Dallas, Tex., Jan. 31.—Lads and ladies of the Salvation army are gathering here from many points throughout the southwest to meet and confer with General William Booth, founder and head of the organization, who has arrived here from Memphis, accompanied by Consul Booth-Tucker and a staff of officers. Tomorrow the general will preach in the Dallas opera house, leaving the day following for New Orleans.

## OF LOCAL INTEREST.

### From the New Mexican.

Judge B. S. Baker, associate justice of the supreme court, left this evening for his home in Albuquerque.

M. V. Chavez, an Albuquerque attorney, attended the meeting of the democratic territorial central committee here on yesterday.

O. N. Marron, former mayor of Albuquerque, was in town yesterday in attendance upon the meeting of the democratic territorial central committee.

William McIntosh, an extensive sheep grower with headquarters at Chilli, Bernalillo county, is in town here for the legislative assembly.

Mrs. F. A. Hubbell, Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Romero returned to their homes at Albuquerque this afternoon, after having attended the dance at the Palace hotel last evening.

Jo E. Sheridan, United States coal mine inspector for New Mexico, who has been here several days on official business, left last night for Gallup to inspect the coal mines at that place.

Angus McGillivray, in the sheep business in eastern Bernalillo county, with headquarters at Chilli, was among yesterday's arrivals in town. Mr. McGillivray is interested in the creation of a new county.

Mrs. Harry Benjamin, of Albuquerque, the pretty granddaughter of Col. J. Francisco Chavez, attended the Luna reception and ball at the Palace

hotel last evening. She is a guest at the residence of her mother, Mrs. Armijo on the south side.

## Dead Conductor.

Jerry Reed, a conductor well known in the railroad circles about Salt Lake, who has been in Albuquerque only a short time, died at his rooms in the Highlands this morning about 3 o'clock of consumption. Deceased was about 35 years of age, and was a member of the Order Railway Conductors, division 209, at Pocatello, Idaho, where he formerly resided. The remains were taken charge of by O. W. Strong & Sons, who have telegraphed the secretary of the railroad order at Pocatello.

## OFFICIAL MATTERS.

The postoffice at Woodbury, Bernalillo county, has been discontinued, and the mail for that point will be sent to Bland in the future.

## Pecos River Forest Reserve.

Forest Superintendent I. B. Hanna has received instructions from the forestry department to assume charge of the Pecos river forest reserve in conjunction with his duties as forest inspector in New Mexico and Arizona. Supervisor George Langenberg's resignation taking effect February 1.

## Lost Child Excitement.

There was great commotion at the Cincinnati mine location in the Tres Hermanos mountains the other day, caused by little Raymond O'Neal, the three and a half year old son of Mr. and Mrs. O'Neal, who conduct the mine boarding house, becoming lost in the plains, says the Deming Herald.

It appears the father started for the El Paso & Southwestern railroad station, nine miles away, in the morning, taking the little fellow with him about about three miles of the distance for company, where he sat him down and directed him to return home. It was a well beaten road and the father, it seems, felt no uneasiness for the little fellow's safety. But what was the father's horror on returning home in the evening to find that his child had not yet returned home! News of the little one's disappearance soon spread to every house in the hamlet and the miners under direction of Superintendent McCoy, turned out to search for him. They searched all that evening and all that night and until 10 o'clock next day before little Raymond was found, aimlessly wandering among the soap weeds, having traveled fully twenty-five miles from the point of starting. He was very tired and soon fell asleep in the arms of a rescuer.

When restored to the arms of his almost distracted parents there was great rejoicing in camp.

## LETTER LIST.

Following is the list of letters remaining uncalled for in the postoffice at Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the week ending January 31, 1903:

**Ladies' List.**  
Basford, Miss Min-Gonzalez, Miss Cereno, Trinidad  
Benedict, Mrs. E. Jaramillo, Mrs. Priscilla Baker, Mrs. F. J. Allison  
Connor, Miss Kath-Lobato, Silvestra  
Clements, Mrs. Mares, Delina  
Creagh, Katie Muller, Mrs. C. E. Martinez, Miss Alice  
Dwyer, Miss L. E. Spratt, Mrs. M. M. Shirley, Mrs. Ella  
Findly, Miss B. Turner, Mrs. Arthur Garcia, Margarita

**Men's List.**  
Allen, E. P. Locke, John B.  
Arajon, Bernabe Lopez, Vidal  
Aber, J. J. Metson, J. E.  
Armijo, Ramon Marshall, J. M.  
Brown, I. A. McMillen, Mr. and Mrs. Odle  
Balder, Cristobal Montolio, Federico  
Birtman, Fred A. Menasco, W. W.  
Chaves, Conrado Munger, Roy  
Condobal, Cecero Milke, Leonard  
Coppi, L. Manchova, Juan  
Cleveland, George Moore, Ed  
G. Neville, Mr.  
Crain, G. W. Peters, W. E.  
Collins, John Parker, Day  
Chaves, Juan Jose Preston, Ben  
Dalton, E. E. Rivera, Damacio  
Foster, A. J. Reynolds, J. E.  
Frank, E. L. Romero, Julian  
Garcia, Alejo G. Robinson, J. W.  
Garcilla, Aristo Shaffer, Clyde  
agon Salas, Ladocio  
Garranillo, Jesus Snorbus, Geo. J.  
Griffith, Hunter Tofoya, Fella  
Goodlander, J. H. Tofoya, Perfeto  
Gaita, Telefora Maddie, F. H.  
Halt, D. S. Valdez, Manuel  
Jarrat, Michael Varnes, Stephen J.  
Kilbourne, E. W. Lagerwall, F. A.

Persons calling for the above named letters will please say "Advertised," and give the date of publication.

R. W. HOPKINS, Postmaster.

## Co-Operative B. & L. Association.

The annual meeting of the directors and stockholders of the Co-Operative Building and Loan Association was held in the secretary's office in the Grant building last night.

The meeting closed after a thorough review of the business of the past year and election of officers for the ensuing year, which are as follows:

President—D. Weinmann.  
Vice President—W. W. Strong.  
Treasurer—George A. Kaseman.  
Secretary—H. H. Tilton.  
Board of Directors—Chas. Mausard, Frank McKee, C. E. Cramer, C. A. Hawks.

Attorney—Felix Lester.

A new series of stock is being issued and as an investment is of the best as a monthly saving account.

Superintendent C. H. Young and Manager R. A. Wells, of Wells, Fargo & Co., passed through the city the other night for El Paso.

# New York Fashion Letter

BY MAUDE GRIFFIN

New York, Jan. 31.—Everybody is crowding as many gaiters as possible into the period which intervenes between now and the beginning of Lent, all of which is having a most delightful effect upon fashions.

There still remains some striking mid-winter styles and one sees them at receptions, teas, parties and in the shops where the buying of summer novelties is in progress. The great demand for thin materials just now is simply a forecast of the season, and though it is well to prepare for days that are to come, one can neglect the styles that be.

The tailor made suit in its new spring adaptations is a joy to the eye and a distraction to the purse at the same time. It is not long ago since even the women of means boasted only one tailor suit, this she wore on every possible occasion; but things have changed and any wardrobe to be truly smart should contain three tailor-made gowns at least—one of satin faced material for semi-dress occasions and informal affairs; another of rough goods and more severely carried out, for street wear exclusively; and the walking costume for rainy and dull days or for outings.

Velvet vies with highly finished cloths for a place of favor and is really used more for tailor-made gowns than for full-dress occasions. Exclusive designs come trimmed with bands of woolen braid. Such a decoration may be incongruous, but since the ensemble is chic, one need go no further.

Whatever may be said against it, there is a dignity about the trained skirt that appeals specially to the modish woman and as long as clinging effects and slender outlines obtain, this style of skirt will be worn. In it lies the hope of the short woman for relief from the horrors of dampness; it is likewise the salvation of the attenuated slattern whose angularities are transformed into graceful curves by soft, clinging folds. So the long skirt will be with us for another season at least.

Lace has become so indispensable a feature of fashion that it has invaded even the province of the street gown. Not that touches of it have not been apparent in this style of dress before; but now it reaches the point of elaboration. A tailor made design which is deliciously smart is executed in pale tan ladies' cloth and has alternating folds of panne velvet on both the skirt and bodice. Down the front runs a broad band of heavy lace with a row of brown tassels on either side. Two rows of brown velvet in Roman key pattern trim the skirt. There are both economy and convenience in the new laces which combine embroidery, or art stripes or tasseled bands and come ready to be applied to skirts and bodices. They save one the trouble of thinking out schemes of decoration as well as a harmonious blending of colors and when these two important matters of dress can be settled so easily, the price of the trimming is well worth the sacrifice made to "raise" it. Continuing the description of the cloth and lace dress, however, the sleeves open over a Bishop sleeve of Russian lace and are laid in folds held in place by tiny rows of French knots.

The luxury of twentieth century modes is expressed in two coats which are designed to go with the costume one for mild days and another for cold days.

The first is of pongee silk and reaches to the hem of the skirt. It is trimmed with Russian lace, while the Roman key pattern of the dress is carried out on lapels and cuffs.

The second coat is of black Melton. It has a cape of heavy white lace which falls in long embroidered tabs in front, producing a smartly elegant effect. At the shoulders there are shorter tabs fastened to the lace with black embroidered buttons.

A hat or white beaver, for which tan may be substituted with good results, completes the costume and is trimmed with white liberty satin and a trailing white plume.

The passing of the pouched bodice, which has seen its most palmy days, is emphasized in the new thin gowns. Until now Dame Fashion, though tired of bloused effects, had nothing quite as pretty and generally becoming to take their place. But there has been going on some tall thinking out of which the idea of a fascinating little belt has evolved and though it is a straight little affair, requiring a great deal of "softening" through the assistance of chiffon, etc., it is really charmingly piquant.

It is possible now to get the loveliest thin gowns and lace robes for a really reasonable price. A fairly like design which is worthy of imitation is strewn with flowers of Bouvais work. The skirt is soft and clinging, falling like a mist over a little satin lining.

The bodice, which is cut low, boasts no trimmings except the Bouvais work and touches of lace about the décolletage. A dash of chiffon further adds to the simplicity of the effect.

Pink is among the revivals of the season for entire costumes. Of late this place has been usurped by pale blues and delicate greens, but it has returned to favor with a furor. A delicate frock of pink satin is made with long, clinging skirt, accented in remembrance lace. The waist is relieved by touches of black velvet, which give it decidedly a Parisian appearance.

There is a pointed girdle of the lace and the sleeves, which are short, are of the satin, with a ruffle of lace under a full frill of satin. The bodice is filled in above the girdle with soft folds of white chiffon. Clusters of tiny pink rosebuds are caught in with the knots of black. Velvet ribbon adorns the front of the bodice.

The slashed seam effect has suffered no loss of favor by the changes of fashion. Indeed the idea is faintly carried out in one of the new shirts—novelties in which are constantly appearing. The waist is in pale blue nun's veiling piped with plaid silk. The sleeves are plain and full with a straight cuff. The back fits closely and a distinguishing feature of the design is the absence of a yoke. The front shows the slashed, or slot-seam effect, with two narrow plaits on either side running from shoulder seam to belt.

There are two or three shades among the spring colorings—hollyhock yellow, dove blue—whatever tint that may be—and a daring shade of cerise. They are quite pretty, but with the exception of the second, need the sobering touch of black to make them adapted to any but evening wear.

and the sleeves, which are short, are of the satin, with a ruffle of lace under a full frill of satin. The bodice is filled in above the girdle with soft folds of white chiffon. Clusters of tiny pink rosebuds are caught in with the knots of black. Velvet ribbon adorns the front of the bodice.

The slashed seam effect has suffered no loss of favor by the changes of fashion. Indeed the idea is faintly carried out in one of the new shirts—novelties in which are constantly appearing. The waist is in pale blue nun's veiling piped with plaid silk. The sleeves are plain and full with a straight cuff. The back fits closely and a distinguishing feature of the design is the absence of a yoke. The front shows the slashed, or slot-seam effect, with two narrow plaits on either side running from shoulder seam to belt.

There are two or three shades among the spring colorings—hollyhock yellow, dove blue—whatever tint that may be—and a daring shade of cerise. They are quite pretty, but with the exception of the second, need the sobering touch of black to make them adapted to any but evening wear.

MAUDE GRIFFIN.

## DEVICE IN USE.

### New Feature of Railroad for El Paso Just West of Town.

The safety interlocking plant erected at the point where the El Paso & Southwestern railroad crosses the Southern Pacific, just west of town, was put in use Sunday, the railroad commission at Austin having approved it upon the recommendation of Engineer Thompson, who was sent to examine it by that body. It is the first device of the kind ever established in El Paso or vicinity.

A bulletin posted in the local dispatcher's office of the Southern Pacific instructs the trainmen to be governed by the signals to be given them by the towerman when they are passing the crossing. This so notifies the trainman that the double track of the Southern Pacific is now operated just the reverse of the old way, that is, trains now use the right hand track in the direction in which they are going instead of the left. A lack of knowledge of this change caused an engineer to run his engine onto the ground near the interlocking plant Sunday night.

The switch at the west end of the double track is now thrown by the towerman, so that both east and west trains can pass it without stopping—El Paso News.

## A Gun Play.

The young Italian bartender in the saloon on First avenue north of the Rico cafe, was arrested this afternoon charged with making a gun play on a young fellow from a Santa Fe road gang. The trouble started in the saloon, and when the fellow from the road gang had left the building the bartender followed him out. A volley of stones were sent after the young fellow and not being satisfied the bartender went after a gun, which he had ready for use. The timely appearance of a Citizen reporter caused him to conceal the gun. Gun plays on First avenue are becoming too numerous and the matter was reported to the police, who arrested both of the men. They will have a hearing in the morning.

## QUEEREST CITY EVER BUILT.

Town Founded by Julian Ericson and His Followers in New Mexico.

Of all queer cities ever built the queerest was undoubtedly that erected near the headquarters of the Rio Pecos in this territory, by Julian Ericson and his following in the middle of last century.

Ericson was an American of Norwegian descent, and inherited some money, together with a taste for occult mysticism, from his father, a Swedeborgian carpenter and contractor.

He early came under the influence of Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, but quarreled with his leader, and started to found an entirely new sect of his own, the cardinal principle of which was the transmigration of the souls of the faithful while yet on earth. This is to say, he promised that his disciples should, at an early date, be changed into doves, eagles, lions, or, in fact, into whatever beast or bird they chose.

It seems scarcely credible that such an absurd, not to say nauseous, doctrine should have succeeded, even for a time, in attracting converts; but there would seem to be no limit to human credulity and gullibility in such matters. Some hundreds of enthusiasts threw in their lot with him, and following the example of the Mormons marched westward from the settled states into the great western wilds.

They finally brought up in what is now San Miguel county, and built a town of frame houses, at the back of each of which was a den or cage suitable to the needs of the particular animal or bird they expected shortly to become.

Of course, the promises of Ericson came to nothing, and in the end he and a number of his disappointed disciples were killed in battle with the Apaches. The others scattered to various parts, the majority going to California to dig for gold; and the stronger of the eagles, those elected for the would-be tiger-men and lion-men, were afterwards utilized for a brief period as places of confinement for refractory convicts.